

Sub C1 7. stacking a plurality of sheet materials, each having asperities on a surface thereof in part; and

B1 a second step of obtaining a second laminate by having said first laminate sandwiched between a rigid body and a preheated elastic body that are located opposite to each other or between opposing preheated elastic bodies and then by having a pressing force applied thereto,

said first laminate being maintained in a depressurized atmosphere during said first step and said second step.

B2 4. (Amended) The manufacturing method of laminates according to Claim 1, wherein said elastic bodies have a larger surface area than said first laminate such that edges of said elastic bodies extend beyond edges of said first laminate.

B3 *Sub C1* 17. (Amended) The manufacturing method of laminates according to Claim 1, wherein said sheet material is formed of a green sheet and an internal electrode layer.

B4 *Sub C1* 20. (Amended) Pressing force application equipment comprising:
a first pressing force application member with an elastic body provided inside of a first rigid body; and a second pressing force application member with an elastic body

sub 17
B4
provided inside of a second rigid body, wherein said first and second pressing force application members are arranged so as to have said elastic body located opposite to each other, and also at least one of said first and second pressing force application member is made movable,

said first rigid body having a first air outlet for evacuating gases and a first elastic frame member disposed on a lower surface thereof, and said second rigid body having a second air outlet for evacuating gases and a second elastic frame member disposed on an upper surface thereof.

Please add new claims 24-28 as follows:

sub 17
B5
24. (New) The manufacturing method of laminates according to Claim 1, wherein maintaining said first laminate in a depressurized atmosphere operates to remove substantially all gas from said first laminate.

25. (New) The manufacturing method of laminates according to Claim 1, wherein, when said pressing force is applied to said elastic body, said elastic body covers an upper surface and a side surface of said first laminate.

26. (New) The manufacturing method of laminates according to Claim 25,